From:

Scott, Dukes

To:

Glaccum, David; Taylor, Richele

Cc:

Patel, Swati

Subject: Date: Investment analysts support agreement Friday, September 2, 2016 9:33:18 AM

Attachments:

09012016 Wells.pdf ATT00001.htm 09012016 Mizuho.pdf ATT00002.htm 09012016 UBS.pdf ATT00003.htm

Wells Fargo - SCG: Constructive Settlement Reached On Fixed-Price Option

Summary. On 9/1, SCG announced a settlement agreement with a number of intervenors including the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) related to the company's election of the Fixed Price Option (FPO) for the new nuclear development (NND). Key provisions of the agreement include approval of an incremental \$831mm of capital costs and a modest reduction of the allowed ROE for NND to 10.25% from 10.5% to be applied (essentially) to new NND capital spend incurred post 6/30/16. Bottom line – we view the agreement as constructive and supportive of our positive rating on SCG - particularly as it relates to our longstanding thesis that there exists strong stakeholder support for new nuclear in SC. No change to our 16E & 17E of \$4.00 & \$4.25. We are modestly increasing our 18E to \$4.75 from \$4.65 to reflect an accelerated NND capex recovery vs. our prior assumption (model revision). We reiterate our Outperform rating and 12-18 month valuation range of \$78-80/share.

Next Steps. Since the settlement is not unanimous, there will be a public hearing on 10/4. That being said, the settlement includes a number of highly influential parties including the ORS and an industrial users group. The SC Public Service Commission (PSC) is scheduled to issue a final decision by 11/28. Based on historical precedent, we would be surprised if the final order included any material modifications to the settlement. Along with the approved incremental capital costs and 10.25% ROE, other elements of the settlement include an approval of the updated schedule, which contemplates substantial completion dates of August 2019 (Unit 2) and August 2020 (Unit 3) and, separately, an agreement on the part of SCG to not request approval of any additional costs prior to 1/28/19.

EPS Outlook. Our 16-20E EPS are \$4.00, \$4.25, \$4.75, \$4.90 & \$5.15, which results in a 6-7% CAGR off the 2015 weather-normalized base of \$3.73. Based on our calculations, the 25 bp reduction in the ROE for prospective NND capex only had a modest \$0.01-0.03 negative impact on our 2018-20 EPS estimates. Our outlook assumes additional new equity of \$550mm during 2017 & 2018.

# Valuation Range: \$78.00 to \$80.00

Our \$78-80/sh valuation range is based on a P/E multiple (apply a ~5% discount to the 17E Regulated Electric median of 17.5-18.0X to our 18E of \$4.75) and DDM analyses. Risks include regulatory and construction.

### **Investment Thesis:**

We view SCG's ~10% P/E discount to be excessive as the above-average nuclear construction risk is partially offset by above-average EPS growth and a supportive regulatory environment, including timely BLRA recovery of new nuclear CapEx.

Mizuho - Da-Fix Means De-risk; Reiterate Buy; Remains a Top Pick

Event: SCGs flagship utility, South Carolina Electric & Gas, reached what we view to be a milestone settlement agreement related to its new nuclear build. Under the settlement, SCE&G will take a 25 basis point reduction in exchange for the ability to recover an additional \$831 million in higher nuclear costs, and fix the contract price with its EPC vendor, Westinghouse Electric. Total project cost becomes approximately \$7.7 billion. Importantly, the settlement supports the approval of the updated contract schedule which would have the two new units substantially completed by August 2019 and August 2020, meaning there are likely no additional delays. The key parties to the settlement include the S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff, key electric cooperatives, and the industrial user groups. Absent from the agreement are the Sierra Club, Coastal Carolina Conservation League, and CMC Steel. Upon first look, the settlement agreement mirrors exactly our expectations. As of this writing, SCG has not filed an 8-K with the complete settlement report.

Implication: The settlement agreement, if approved by the SC regulators, helps: (i) de-risk the story on many fronts but most importantly, by removing any variable price exposure SCE&G might have otherwise had with the nuclear build; (ii) reduce the discounted valuation; (iii) rebases its earnings growth profile; (iv) allows investors to concentrate on a likely acceleration in the dividend growth rate towards the end of the decade to return to a 60% payout ratio; and (v) allows investors to concentrate on how SCG will redeploy the roughly \$550 million in annual cash flow from these two new nuclear units. Hearings on the proposed settlement are slated to begin October 4, 2016. We expect regulatory approval on or around mid-November.

# **Expected Stock Reaction: POSITIVE**

Our 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 EPS estimates remain unchanged at \$4.02, \$4.15, \$4.60, and \$5.00, respectively, which already reflect the fixed price option. Our 2018 estimate is approximately \$0.13 per share above current Street consensus (having inched up from \$4.40/sh.) as more analysts include the fixed price option. Our 2018 EPS estimate reflects \$500 million in secondary equity issuances in that year (using mid-year convention) to support the balance sheet as well as roughly \$100-125 million in annual DRIP (consistent with management disclosure). SCG previously articulated 4-6% EPS growth exclusive of the fixed price deal; thus, we expect the current 9% discount on our 2018E EPS to begin to abate as earnings expectations are re-based higher.

## **UBS - Fixing a Deal on a Fixed Price Contract**

# SCG files settlement with interveners on fixed price nuclear deal

Mgmt successfully filed a settlement with ORS and a variety of other SC parties as part of its petition to increase rates to reflect principally the costs associated with implementing a fixed price deal for its VC Summer nuclear expansion. Hearings are still scheduled for Oct 4 with a decision from the PSC expected in ~Nov. We see the project as substantially de-risked with this deal; we note the updated CWIP figures reflecting this higher spend were already introduced with 2Q. We look for an update by Oct 1st on the final timing for Construction Milestone payments with Fluor, which could tweak CWIP on the project (hence EPS). The finalization of this schedule should allow for the SC PSC to have the final view on payments by the time it votes.

# What are they giving up? No further capital cost increases pre '19

In turn, mgmt. commits to avoid further increases in capital costs pre <u>Jan 28, 2019</u>, just a few months before the scheduled Aug 2019 in-service date of Unit 2 (slight delay from last order of Jun 2019). We note the deal includes interveners with a contingency for project delay of 18-

months+ (presumably to line up with the end of ~2020). Experts we've spoken to believe efforts appear under way to provide for a potential PTC qualification extension beyond the 12/31/2020 deadline (potentially indefinitely).

# We remain concerned around future project delays

We are wary re progress on the site as hiring activities by Fluor ramp and overall productivity appears above 1.0. We believe the project could still be readily delayed, but the question is whether any such delay would be beyond the end of 2020. We note the order only limits the company's ability to file for further increases *until* 2019, rather than preventing it from doing so. From an investor perspective the limited ability to refile for the time being should substantially de-risk near-term EPS as the SCG will not seek deals beyond the scope defined. A deal was also reached in NC earlier this week.

# Also locking in new nuclear ROE at reduced rate of 10.25% through build

Mgmt is also further reducing its ROE on the Summer project to 10.25% from 10.5% (already lowered from 11% from the last deal). Notably this is consistent with SCE&G's currently authorized ROE of 10.25% (to which it would have dropped once reaching inservice anyway). We are not surprised by this aspect of the deal; mgmt also used this lever in the last round of negotiations.

## We expect the shares to trade up on deal announcement.

While not additive to 2Q disclosures on CWIP, we think the deal de-risks the shares. We note consensus remains conservative, with this latest deal allowing for positive estimate revisions (albeit offset in part by the slightly lower ROE). Ahead of final payment update on 10/1, we maintain our estimates at the top end of mgmt's 4-6% EPS growth rate; our estimates are somewhat conservative to reflect the risk of future execution slip.

## Barclays - SCG: Settlement Agreement for Fixed Price Option on New Nuclear

On September 1,SCE&G announced that it had entered into a settlement agreement with the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, the Central Electric Power Cooperative Inc., The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc., Frank Knapp Jr., and South Carolina Energy Users Committee related to SCE&G's petition to update construction and capital cost schedules, including SCE&G's election of the Fixed Price Option for the two new nuclear units under construction. The settlement agreement is subject to approval by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. A public hearing on SCE&G's petition is scheduled to begin October 4, 2016. The settlement agreement signifies that no contested issues exist among the settling parties and supports approval of the updated construction schedule. The settlement supports the inclusion of an additional \$831M in the capital cost schedule. In addition to supporting the new schedule and increased cost, the settling parties agreed to revised the allowed ROE from 10.50% down to 10.25%. The new ROE will be applied prospectively for all costs recovery sought on or after January 1, 2017, until such time that the new nuclear units are completed. SCE&G also agreed not to file future requests to amend the capital cost schedule prior to January 28, 2019.

We find this a constructive settlement that if approved will move to further limit the risk associated with nuclear new build project. The 25bp reduction in ROE is in line to better than expectations given the settlement for the last major cost and schedule change resulted in a 50bp reduction in allowed ROE. We await a final order to determine the profile of the

additional \$831M in capital costs along with any associated change in financing from debt and equity in support of the increased costs.

Bryant Potter | Investor Relations & Shareholder Services | SCANA Corporation | Office 803.217.6916 |addison.potter@scana.com

September 1, 2016

# **Equity Research**

# **SCANA Corporation**

SCG: Constructive Settlement Reached On Fixed-Price Option

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We view SCG's ~10% P/E discount to be excessive as the above-average nuclear construction risk is partially offset by above-average EPS growth and a supportive regulatory environment, including timely BLRA recovery of new nuclear CapEx.

Please see page 3 for rating definitions, important disclosures and required analyst certifications
All estimates/forecasts are as of 09/01/16 unless otherwise stated.

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# **Outperform**

Sector: Regulated Electric Utilities Market Weight

#### Company Note

	2015A	2016F	3	2017	E
EPS		Curr.	Prior	Curr.	Prior
Q1 (Mar.)	\$1.39	\$1.23 A	NC	NĒ	
<b>Q2</b> (June)	0.69	0.74 A	NC	NE	
Q3 (Sep.)	1.04	1.06	NC	NE	
Q4 (Dec.)	0.69	0.97	NC	NE	
FY	\$3.81	\$4.00	NC	\$4.25	NC
CY	\$3.81	\$4.00		\$4.25	
FY P/EPS	18.4x	17.5x		16.5x	
Rev.(MM)	\$4,380	\$4,556		\$4,741	

Source: Company Data, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC estimates, and Reuters NA = Not Available, NC = No Change, NE = No Estimate, NM = Not Meaningful V = Volatile, = Company is on the Priority Stock List

SCG's '16 weather-normalized EPS guidance is \$3.90-4.10. YTD weather impact on electric margins is flat but led to a \$0.06 decline at GA sub in Q1.

Favorable weather versus normal provided a \$0.08 benefit in 2015.

Ticker	SCG
Price (09/01/2016)	\$70.01
52-Week Range:	\$50-77
Shares Outstanding: (MM)	142.9
Market Cap.: (MM)	\$10,004.4
S&P 500:	2,170.86
Avg. Daily Vol.:	644,406
Dividend/Yield:	\$2.30/3.3%
LT Debt: (MM)	\$5,995.0
LT Debt/Total Cap.:	48.1%
ROE:	10.0%
3-5 Yr. Est. Growth Rate:	6.0%
CY 2016 Est. P/EPS-to-Growth:	2.9x
Last Reporting Date:	07/28/2016
5	Before Open

Source: Company Data, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC estimates, and Reuters

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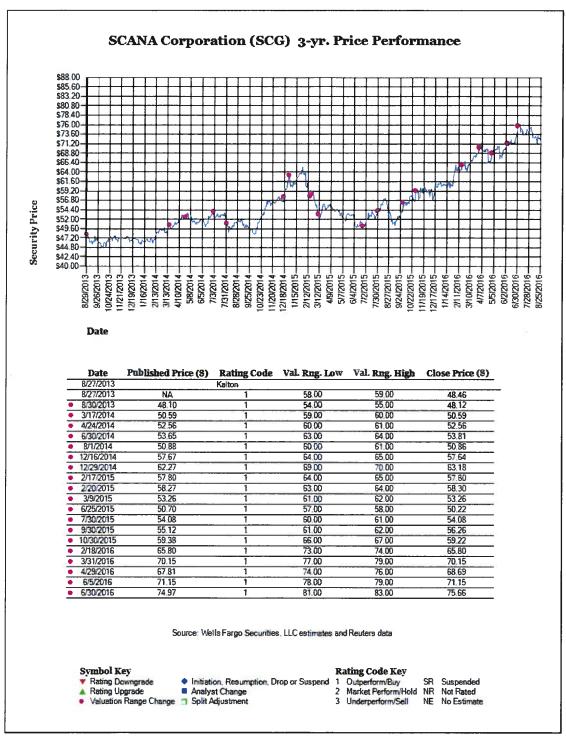
Together we'll go far



# **Company Description:**

Headquartered in Cayce, South Carolina, SCANA's businesses include regulated electric and natural gas utility services, gas transmission and retail gas and energy marketing. The company's primary subsidiary, South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G), serves 688,000 electric utility customers and 325,000 natural gas customers in central, southern, and southwestern portions of South Carolina. Public Service North Carolina serves 500,000 natural gas customers in north, central, Piedmont, and western parts of North Carolina. SCG is also involved in retail natural gas marketing in Georgia and wholesale energy marketing in the Southeast.

# **Required Disclosures**



**Additional Information Available Upon Request** 

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SCG: Risks include regulatory and construction.

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1=Outperform: The stock appears attractively valued, and we believe the stock's total return will exceed that of the market over the next 12 months. BUY

2=Market Perform: The stock appears appropriately valued, and we believe the stock's total return will be in line with the market over the next 12 months. HOLD

3=Underperform: The stock appears overvalued, and we believe the stock's total return will be below the market over the next 12 months. SELL

#### SECTOR RATING

O=Overweight: Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over the next 12 months.

M=Market Weight: Industry expected to perform in-line with the relevant broad market benchmark over the next 12 months.

U=Underweight: Industry expected to underperform the relevant broad market benchmark over the next 12 months.

# **VOLATILITY RATING**

V = A stock is defined as volatile if the stock price has fluctuated by +/-20% or greater in at least 8 of the past 24 months or if the analyst expects significant volatility. All IPO stocks are automatically rated volatile within the first 24 months of trading.

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# Mizuho Securities USA Inc.

Energy Research
Power, Utilities & Alternative Energy
Company Flash

U.S. Equity Research

September 1, 2016

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Rating Buy
Previous Rating No Change
Price (9/01) \$70.01
Price Target \$84.00
Previous Price Target No Change



James von Riesemann Managing Director, Americas Research 212-205-7857 james.vonriesemann@us.mizuho-sc.com

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# **Price Target Calculation and Key Risks**

Our 12-month \$84 per share price target is based on a 16.8x P/E multiple on 2018. We also use sum of the parts, single- and two-stage DDM, and price-to-book to help triangulate valuation. Key risks include execution risk with the nuclear project; the cost of building the two new nuclear units is roughly 75% of SCGs market cap today and once complete, will represent nearly one-half the earnings power and two-thirds of the cash flow. General risks include economic conditions, a changing regulatory environment, and changes in interest rates.



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Stocks for which the anticipated share price appreciation exceeds 10%.

Neutral:

Stocks for which the anticipated share price appreciation is within 10% of the share price.

**Underperform:** 

Stocks for which the anticipated share price falls by 10% or more. Rating Suspended - rating and price objective temporarily suspended.

RS: NR:

No Rating - not covered, and therefore not assigned a rating.

**Rating Distribution** 

(As of 9/01)	% of coverage	IB service past 12 mo
Buy (Buy)	43.00%	35.96%
Hold (Neutral)	56.04%	26.72%
Sell (Underperform)	0.97%	50.00%

For disclosure purposes only (NYSE and FINRA ratings distribution requirements), our Buy, Neutral and Underperform ratings are displayed as Buy, Hold and Sell, respectively.



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Global Research

2 September 2016

## First Read

# SCANA Corp.

# Fixing a Deal on a Fixed Price Contract

#### SCG files settlement with interveners on fixed price nuclear deal

Mgmt successfully filed a settlement with ORS and a variety of other SC parties as part of its petition to increase rates to reflect principally the costs associated with implementing a fixed price deal for its VC Summer nuclear expansion. Hearings are still scheduled for Oct 4 with a decision from the PSC expected in ~Nov. We see the project as substantially de-risked with this deal; we note the updated CWIP figures reflecting this higher spend were already introduced with 2Q. We look for an update by Oct 1st on the final timing for Construction Milestone payments with Fluor, which could tweak CWIP on the project (hence EPS). The finalization of this schedule should allow for the SC PSC to have the final view on payments by the time it votes.

#### What are they giving up? No further capital cost increases pre '19

In turn, mgmt. commits to avoid further increases in capital costs pre Jan 28, 2019, just a few months before the scheduled Aug 2019 in-service date of Unit 2 (slight delay from last order of Jun 2019). We note the deal includes interveners with a contingency for project delay of 18-months+ (presumably to line up with the end of ~2020). Experts we've spoken to believe efforts appear under way to provide for a potential PTC qualification extension beyond the 12/31/2020 deadline (potentially indefinitely).

#### We remain concerned around future project delays

We are wary re progress on the site as hiring activities by Fluor ramp and overall productivity appears above 1.0. We believe the project could still be readily delayed, but the question is whether any such delay would be beyond the end of 2020. We note the order only limits the company's ability to file for further increases until 2019, rather than preventing it from doing so. From an investor perspective the limited ability to refile for the time being should substantially de-risk near-term EPS as the SCG will not seek deals beyond the scope defined. A deal was also reached in NC earlier this week.

#### Also locking in new nuclear ROE at reduced rate of 10.25% through build

Mgmt is also further reducing its ROE on the Summer project to 10.25% from 10.5% (already lowered from 11% from the last deal). Notably this is consistent with SCE&G's currently authorized ROE of 10.25% (to which it would have dropped once reaching inservice anyway). We are not surprised by this aspect of the deal; mgmt also used this lever in the last round of negotiations.

#### We expect the shares to trade up on deal announcement.

While not additive to 2Q disclosures on CWIP, we think the deal de-risks the shares. We note consensus remains conservative, with this latest deal allowing for positive estimate revisions (albeit offset in part by the slightly lower ROE). Ahead of final payment update on 10/1, we maintain our estimates at the top end of mgmt's 4-6% EPS growth rate; our estimates are somewhat conservative to reflect the risk of future execution slip.

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Americas	
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Price

12-month rating	Neutral
12m price target	US\$76.00

US\$70.01

DIC:	CCCN	1000	SCCI	IC

#### Trading data and key metrics

US\$76,12-50.51
US\$10.0bn
143m (COM)
90%
262
US\$19.1
) US\$5,69bn
1.8x
4.5x

#### EPS (UBS, diluted) (US\$)

	12/16E	
	UBS	Cons
Q1	1.23	1,23
Q2	0.74	0.74
Q3E	1,18	1,05
Q4E	0.88	0.91
12/16E	4,03	3,96
12/17E	4.32	4.16
12/18E	4,60	4,44

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Highlights (US\$m)	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16E	12/17E	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
Revenues	4,495	4,951	4,380	5,116	5,291	5,435	5,587	5,714
EBIT (UBS)	991	1,098	1,116	1,275	1,357	1,426	1,511	1,572
Net earnings (UBS)	471	538	545	576	623	664	704	721
EPS (UBS, diluted) (US\$)	3.39	3.79	3.81	4.03	4,32	4.60	4.88	5.00
DPS (US\$)	2.03	2.10	2.18	2.28	2.38	2.49	2.59	2.69
Net (debt) / cash	(5,688)	(6,478)	(6,353)	(7,496)	(8,382)	(8,902)	(9,329)	(9,530)
Profitability/valuation	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16E	12/17E	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
EBIT margin %	22.0	22.2	25.5	24.9	25.7	26.2	27.1	27.5
ROIC (EBIT) %	12.0	12.3	11.9	12.5	11.8	11.3	11.2	11.1
EV/EBITDA (core) x	9.1	9.2	8.2	8.9	10.7	10.2	9.7	9.3
P/E (UBS, diluted) x	14.4	13.6	14.7	17.4	16.2	15.2	14.4	14.0
Equity FCF (UBS) yield %	2.3	(2.0)	1.5	(7.7)	(4.2)	(0.1)	2.4	5.1
Net dividend yield %	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8

Source: Company accounts, Thomson Reuters, UBS estimates. Metrics marked as (UBS) have had analyst adjustments applied. Valuations: based on an average share price that year, (E): based on a

share price of US\$70,01 on 01 Sep 2016 19:38 EDT

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#### Forecast returns

Forecast price appreciation	+8.6%
Forecast dividend yield	3.4%
Forecast stock return	+12.0%
Market return assumption	5.8%
Forecast excess return	+6.2%

# **Valuation Method and Risk Statement**

Factors that could prevent SCANA from achieving our earnings, cash flow, and price target objectives include: adverse weather conditions; changes in the regional power regulatory environment; adverse regulatory decisions in its various states jurisdictions (primarily SC, NC, and GA) as well as from the federal regulator, FERC; interest rate & capital market risks; slowdown in regional economy; risks associated with operating nuclear units; more stringent environment regulation; and the impact that changes in commodity prices could have on the unhedged portion of its competitive gas business, SCANA Energy. An added risk is the corresponding construction and financial risk associated with its proposed new nuclear units at the V.C. Summer facility. We value SCG on a SOTP using a -5% discount to the peer utility 2018E P/E multiple.

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12-Month Rating	Definition	Coverage <sup>1</sup>	IB Services <sup>2</sup>
Buy	FSR is > 6% above the MRA.	47%	32%
Neutral	FSR is between -6% and 6% of the MRA.	38%	25%
Sell	FSR is > 6% below the MRA.	15%	21%
Short-Term Rating	Definition	Coverage <sup>3</sup>	IB Services <sup>4</sup>
Buy	Stock price expected to rise within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.	<1%	<1%
	Stock price expected to fall within three months from the time		

Source: UBS. Rating allocations are as of 30 June 2016.

1:Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the 12-month rating category.

3:Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the Short-Term rating category.

**KEY DEFINITIONS: Forecast Stock Return (FSR)** is defined as expected percentage price appreciation plus gross dividend yield over the next 12 months. **Market Return Assumption (MRA)** is defined as the one-year local market interest rate plus 5% (a proxy for, and not a forecast of, the equity risk premium). **Under Review (UR)** Stocks may be flagged as UR by the analyst, indicating that the stock's price target and/or rating are subject to possible change in the near term, usually in response to an event that may affect the investment case or valuation. **Short-Term Ratings** reflect the expected near-term (up to three months) performance of the stock and do not reflect any change in the fundamental view or investment case. **Equity Price Targets** have an investment horizon of 12 months.

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UBS Securities LLC: Julien Dumoulin-Smith; Jerimiah Booream, CFA.

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Company Name	Reuters	12-month rating	Short-term rating	Price	Price date
SCANA Corp. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16	SCG.N	Neutral	N/A	US\$70.01	01 Sep 2016

Source: UBS. All prices as of local market close.

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# **SCANA Corp. (US\$)**



Source: UBS; as of 01 Sep 2016

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